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American School
of Oriental Research
in Palestine

SECOND ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MANAGING
COMMITTEE OF THE AMERICAN SCHOOL
FOR ORIENTAL STUDY AND RESEARCH IN
PALESTINE

To the Council of the Archaeological Institute of America :

GENTLEMEN, — The Annual Meeting of the supporters of the School was held in New York, December 30, 1902. A report on the work of the School was presented, and the Managing Committee reëlected to serve for the year 1903. The Committee is constituted as follows: Professor George F. Moore, *Chairman*; Professor Charles C. Torrey, *Secretary*; Professor James H. Ropes, *Treasurer*; Dr. John P. Peters, and Dr. William Hayes Ward.

The Director of the School the past year has been Professor George A. Barton, of Bryn Mawr College. His report to the Managing Committee, which accompanies this, gives so full an account of the work of the School during the year that it would be superfluous to repeat it here. An encouraging fact is the increase in the number of students, five in all having been in attendance the whole or part of the time. The diverse preparation and interests of these students have added greatly to the work of the Director, who has tried to give them instruction according to their needs, and guidance in their investigations. Professor Barton calls attention in his report to the difficulty of the task thus created, and to the great desirability, on this account as on many others, of having a permanent resident Director of the School, as in the sister Schools at Athens and Rome. Such an arrangement was contemplated in the original

Regulations of the School, and should certainly be made as soon as possible.

A series of papers, embodying the results of the investigations of Directors and students in this and the preceding years, so far as publication seems desirable, will shortly be issued in the *Journal of Biblical Literature*.

The library of the School continues to grow. Besides the gifts reported by the Director, special mention may be made of the *Ordnance Survey* of Sinai, and of Jerusalem, with many photographs, from the British Government; of the *Excavations at Assos* and the *Argive Heraeum*, both from the Archaeological Institute; of a complete set of the *Journal of the American Oriental Society*, from the Society; and of the *Jewish Encyclopaedia*, from the publishers.

The zealous efforts of Dr. James B. Nies to secure an endowment for the School were unsuccessful; but as a result of his labors there has been added to the funds of the School the sum of \$3264.17, from seventeen donors.

The Director for the year 1903-04 is Professor Lewis B. Paton, of Hartford Theological Seminary; Dr. Hans H. Spoer, of New York, has been appointed Thayer Fellow for the year. Professor Nathaniel Schmidt, of Cornell University, has been designated Director for the year 1904-05.

Dr. Selah Merrill has accepted an appointment as Lecturer in Numismatics and Pottery. The Managing Committee wishes to express its appreciation of this, as of the many other services which Dr. Merrill has rendered the School.

GEORGE F. MOORE, *Chairman*.

HARVARD UNIVERSITY,
September 15, 1903.

REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR

1902-1903

To the Managing Committee of the American School in Palestine :

GENTLEMEN, — I have the honor to present herewith a report of the work of the School under your care during the academic year 1902-03.

The Director, leaving America with his wife in June, spent considerable time in London and Paris in preparation for the work which lay before him. In London he met Professor Mitchell, his predecessor, who gave him much information and many helpful suggestions. In Paris a request was made of the French Government, through the American embassy, in response to which that government at a later date presented to the School the *Mémoires* of its "Délégation en Perse," of which M. de Morgan is the Director, and by the labors of which Susa is being excavated.

Proceeding eastward viâ Constantinople, Athens, and Asia Minor, the Director reached Beirut on September 30. Before this he had been joined by two students of the School. Some days were spent in this part of Syria, during which the objects in the archaeological museum of the Syrian Protestant College were examined, as well as its rich collection of ancient coins. The Dog River, Baalbec, and Damascus were also visited.

Jerusalem was reached on October 11. The members of the School were fortunate in the time of their arrival. The next week cholera broke out in Jaffa, and gradually spread until Jerusalem was surrounded upon all sides. For more than three months this scourge raged. In Jaffa alone more than six hundred deaths occurred. Fortunately the strict quarantine established between Jerusalem and the infected districts prevented

the spread of the disease to Jerusalem. It also shut the School securely within the narrow limits around that city during these months, and prevented one student, the Rev. Mr. Brooks, from reaching us. These months were months of much anxiety, but were also quiet months for work.

One of the first problems which confronted the Director after reaching Jerusalem was what quarters the School should occupy. He had little hesitation in choosing for the year the admirably situated room in the Grand New Hotel selected by his predecessor. He also arranged with the proprietor of the hotel that, except during the tourist season, the adjoining room should be used as a class room. The larger number of students rendered this addition to our space necessary.

The question of a more permanent home for the School also presented itself. The Director of the previous year had obtained the refusal of a house, the lease of which fell due the first of Muharram, which this year came in March. The house was admirably adapted to our purposes, if we had a permanent Director in Jerusalem; but it appeared unwise to take it so long as the Director is changed from year to year. It would be necessary, if the house were taken, for the Director to make his home in it, and conduct a domestic establishment. This, in the case of those who might reach Jerusalem without having acquired a knowledge of the spoken Arabic, would be a practical impossibility, as it is very difficult to obtain efficient and reliable servants. To secure adequate care of the property, too, in the absence of the Director during the summer months, would be difficult and expensive.

During the year five students — two regular students and three special — were enrolled in the School. They were as follows:

REGULAR STUDENTS

Irwin Hoch De Long, A.M. (Franklin and Marshall College), B.D. (University of Chicago), of Lancaster, Pennsylvania, Thayer Fellow.

Rev. Hans H. Spoer, Ph.D. (University of the City of New York), of New York.

SPECIAL STUDENTS

Charles Collins, A.B. (Haverford College), LL.B. (New York Law School), of New York.

Rev. Elihu Grant, A.M. (Boston University), of Ramallah, Palestine (entered January 1, 1903).

Rev. Warren J. Moulton, Ph.D. (University of Göttingen), of New Haven, Connecticut (entered March 1, 1903).

In the conduct of the School three objects were kept in view:

(1) To afford each student such instruction in his subject and such guidance in his investigations as he might desire or need.

(2) To give the students an opportunity to become acquainted with as much of the land of Palestine as possible.

(3) To advance knowledge in any way which we could.

For the accomplishment of the first of these aims, eight hours a week of instruction were given by the Director from the middle of October until Christmas, and ten hours a week during January and February, and at intervals afterwards. One student, already equipped for investigation in Hebrew and Arabic, desired instruction in Assyrian and in Himyaritic epigraphy; another received instruction in North Semitic epigraphy and in advanced Hebrew, critically interpreting the Book of Judges with especial reference to Palestinian topography; a third desired help in elementary Hebrew and Assyrian. From the middle of October until Christmas the whole School resolved itself into a class for the study of the archaeology of Jerusalem. This class received one peripatetic lecture from Dr. Selah Merrill, Lecturer on Numismatics and Pottery in the School, who kindly took us about the city and pointed out the position of many of the objects with which our studies were concerned. After Christmas instruction on that period of the history of Israel covered by the Books of Judges and Samuel was given to Mr. Grant and Mr. Collins. The Biblical books were used as text-books, and the history was reconstructed by historical methods. Much attention was given to the topography of Palestine throughout the course.

Dr. Merrill also gave four lectures to the School, as follows :

The Painted Tombs of Beit Jibrin, with Historical Setting.

The Value of Ancient Coins in illustrating History and Art.

The Coins of Palestine : their Historical and Archaeological Importance.

Pottery and Glass, illustrating Historical Periods and Development.

These lectures were so illustrated as to be very interesting and helpful. The regular students and the Director also received instruction in modern Arabic from a native teacher.

In pursuance of the second of the aims mentioned above the students were given the following opportunities of seeing the land : As the cholera diminished and the area of land safely accessible from Jerusalem was enlarged, short trips were made to Bethlehem, Jebel Fureidis, the Cave of Adullam and Tekoah, to Mar Saba, and Hebron. Early in February three days were spent in visiting Jericho, the Jordan, the Dead Sea, and Wady Kelt. Just at the end of February three days were spent on a trip to Nebi Samwil, El-Jib, Rāmallāh, El-Bireh, Beitin, the probable site of Ai, Et-Ta'yibeh, Mikhmās, Wady Mikhmās, 'Ain Fāra, and 'Anātā. Through the kindness of Mr. Grant we enjoyed at this time the hospitality of the admirable Training Home for Girls, which the Society of Friends maintains at Ramallah. During the first week in March the members of the School, through the kindness of Mr. R. A. Stewart Macalister, Explorer to the Palestine Exploration Fund, were accorded the privilege of joining his camp at Abū Shūsseh for a week, and of watching the progress of the exploration of ancient Gezer. The visit was so timed that we witnessed the sinking of a trench from the top of the mound to the native rock, saw the different strata appear, and received some object lessons in sifting the valuable from the worthless antiquities, which such a work brings to light. We are greatly indebted to Mr. Macalister for the helpful instruction in these matters which he generously gave to members of the School.

Soon after this a tenting tour, of eleven days, to the country east of the Jordan, was organized. We had, by this time, learned enough of the language to dispense with the services

of a dragoman and to greatly reduce expenses. We were hampered somewhat in our movements by two days of rain, but nevertheless visited Jericho, Tell Nimrîn, Tell Rāmeḥ, Jebel Nebā, Mādebā, Ḥesbān, 'Ammān, Yājūz, Jerash, Sūf, 'Ajlūn, Burmeh, Jebel Ōsha', and El-Salt. During the trip we came upon some Greek and Latin inscriptions, and gained some new evidence of the survival of ancient religious customs.

On the first of April the School started on a similar tour of eleven days through Samaria and Galilee, in the course of which Turmus 'Āyā, Seilūn, Lubban, Jacob's Well, Mt. Ebal, 'Askar, Ṭūbās, Beisān, Tiberias, Mejdēl, Tell Ḥūm, Ḳurūn Ḥaṭṭīn, Mt. Tabor, Nazareth, Mt. Carmel, Dr. Schumacher's excavation at Tell-el-Mutesellim, Professor Sellin's work at Ta'anuk, Dothan, Sebastīyeh, Nābulus, and Mt. Gerizim were visited. On the latter mountain we found the Samaritans encamped for their Passover festival. Two of our number remained to witness its celebration, and saw some variations in its ritual from that described by other observers. A description of this Passover will soon be written by Dr. Moulton.

Toward the end of April a third camping tour was made, in the course of which Beit-ṣūr, Hebron, Tell Zīf, El-Kurmul, Yuttā, Eḍ-Ḍāhariyeh, Beersheba, Tell Nejīleh, Tell Ḥesy, Beit Jibrīn, Tell Sandeḥanneh, Tell Judeideh, and Deir Aban were visited. This tour occupied six days, and afforded us the sight of some more Greek inscriptions. Photographs and copies of these, with those previously mentioned, were turned over to Dr. Moulton to be worked up.

The last expedition of the year, in which the School united, was made on our way home from Palestine, and involved a study of a number of Egyptian localities and monuments. Landing at Port Said, and travelling to Cairo through the Biblical land of Goshen, we visited the Gizeh Museum several times, viewed the pyramids of Gizeh and Saḳḳāra, the sites of ancient Memphis and Heliopolis, and saw much of the products of the Arabian civilization in Cairo. We then penetrated the south as far as Luxor, in spite of the heat, visiting the temples of Luxor and

Karnak, together with the many temples and tombs of ancient Thebes, across the Nile. The famous temple at Denderah, some miles farther down the Nile, was also inspected. This visit to Egypt was concluded by the inspection of some interesting rock-cut tombs of the Roman period recently discovered at Alexandria.

Throughout the year the third of the objects mentioned above was kept in view. Our opportunities for advancing knowledge were limited, but an endeavor was made to improve any opening which might present itself. Several collections of antiquities were examined. Of these, mention may be made of that in the Convent of the Holy Cross, examined by Dr. Spoer, and that of Mr. Herbert Clark, the American Vice-Consul, examined by the Director. The fruits of these examinations are not yet prepared for publication.

The venders of antiquities, who are always importunate, afford many opportunities to distinguish between the genuine and fabricated archaeological objects. Through one of these a unique Hebrew weight was discovered, a description of which was sent by the Director to the last meeting of the American Oriental Society.

Through the courtesy of the Syrian Bishop of Jerusalem we had the opportunity of working in his library for some months. Several Syriac manuscripts were examined by the Director and Dr. Spoer, and two, which seemed valuable, were photographed. One of these, the works of Pseudo Dionysius with commentary, we are invited to publish in the *Corpus Scriptorum Christianorum Orientalium*.

The regular students were also afforded the opportunity of working in the library of the Greek Patriarchate, in the Convent of the Holy Sepulchre. Here Dr. Spoer collated a manuscript of the Greek text of Job and one of the Greek text of the Psalms, a report of which has already been placed in the hands of the Committee. Mr. De Long also collated a manuscript of the Greek text of the Book of Judges, a report of which has also been forwarded to the Committee. Dr. Spoer also

studied the inscriptions on a small group of inscribed lamps, and did much work in editing and annotating a collection of popular Arabic songs.

Mr. Grant also wrote an article, describing the remains of some ancient buildings in the neighborhood of Ramallah, not hitherto described.

Through the kindness of the owners of various pieces of land, on which they were at different times digging, the School had the opportunity of watching for archaeological discoveries at three different points. These points were the so-called Tombs of the Judges, to the north of Jerusalem; a piece of land near the Damascus Gate at Jerusalem; and a piece of land in Jaffa. By the first of these some conjectures made by Robinson and repeated by Tobler were proven to be incorrect. By the second the foundations of an old structure — probably the monastery of the Servians, which once gave its name to a gate of Jerusalem — were found. By the third the existence of an ancient inner harbor at Jaffa, used in the Maccabaeen period and in the time of Saladin, and perhaps also in the time of Solomon, was rendered probable. Full reports of all this work have been forwarded to the Committee.

On our various tours through Palestine a large number of sites were noted, at any one of which excavations might profitably be carried on, if only we had the necessary funds and the requisite permission of the government.

Notwithstanding all these interests and activities, the library was not forgotten. Partly by purchases made by the Library Committee or the Director, and partly by gifts, some sixty or seventy volumes were added to our shelves during the year. With two or three exceptions, the gifts were made in response to solicitations of the Director. They were as follows:

Peters, *The Old Bible and the New Criticism*, by the author.

Curtiss, *Primitive Semitic Religion To-day*, by the author.

Hilprecht, *Old Babylonian Inscriptions*, by the American Philosophical Society.

De Morgan and Scheil, *Mémoires de la Délégation en Perse*, by the French Government.

The American Journal of Archaeology, New Series, Vols. I-VI, by the Archaeological Institute of America.

Facsimile of the Codex Venetus Marcianus 474 of the Plays of Aristophanes, by the Archaeological Institute of America.

Perpetual subscription to the *American Journal of Semitic Languages*, the *American Journal of Theology*, and the *Biblical World*, by the University of Chicago.

Bliss and Macalister, *Excavations in Palestine, 1898-1900*, by the Palestine Exploration Fund.

Barton, *Sketch of Semitic Origins*, by the author.

Spoer, *The Tetragrammaton*, by the author.

The periodicals of the library were kept bound up to date, and all new volumes were duly entered on the card catalogue. The pamphlets of the library, of which a considerable number had accumulated, were also catalogued, and arranged in cardboard portfolios for ready reference.

As a number of pieces of pottery and various other objects had been left to the School by different persons, the Director, before leaving, catalogued and labelled these, as the beginning of an archaeological and ethnological museum. Arrangements of a simple and inexpensive character should soon be made properly to store and preserve such objects for the School. Such an arrangement would encourage the gift of similar objects, and in time a museum of much importance for purposes of instruction might be accumulated.

There exists in Jerusalem a local branch of the Palestine Exploration Fund. By a vote of this body the Director of the American School of Oriental Research has been made an *ex officio* member of the above-mentioned local branch. This body arranges, from time to time, for public lectures on topics connected with Oriental research. On the 30th of April last, at their invitation, the Director gave a lecture on the 'Origin and Development of Babylonian Picture Writing,' at the palace of the Anglican Bishop.

Early in June the Director met his successor, Professor Paton, at Naples, and transferred his responsibilities to him.

The Director cannot conclude the present report without expressing his conviction that it is very important to estab-

lish, at the earliest possible date, a permanent Director of our School at Jerusalem. This is necessary, both for the efficiency of the internal work of the School and for the reputation of American educational management and of American scholarship abroad. With the number of students who were in attendance at the School during the past year, no Director, however hard he may work, can, when new to the environment, give the students all that they have a right to expect from such a School. For the best instruction of the students, acquaintance with many local details is necessary. On the other hand, the various duties of business manager, instructor, librarian, investigator, "guide, philosopher, and friend" to several men, each of whom needs something different, impose upon one man more than we should really ask of him. It surpasses human strength fully to meet all these obligations.

It is well known, too, that the French have in Jerusalem an excellent archaeological School, under the guidance of some of the best scholars of the Dominican Order. The Germans have also recently established a similar School there, under the guidance of a scholarly permanent Director. Our School is inevitably brought into comparison with these institutions. The best scholars whom we can send from America must, if they go to Palestine for the first time, be for some months novices in Palestinian archaeological work, and in comparison with these experts of longer residence will necessarily suffer. Our Directors of the future will exert themselves to the utmost, as those of the past have done, creditably to represent American scholarship to the students and to the world; but the most pressing need of our School in Jerusalem is a permanent Director.

This report should not be concluded without an expression of gratitude to many friends in Palestine who generously aided our work. Foremost among these is Dr. Selah Merrill, United States Consul at Jerusalem, who was ever ready to aid in any of the many ways which his long experience of the country made possible. Antoine Thomas Gelat, Dragoman to the

American Consulate, should also be mentioned by name. To his great knowledge of Palestinian life and character, his unfailing tact, and his unselfish service to others, we were indebted day by day.

GEORGE A. BARTON, *Director*.

BRYN MAWR COLLEGE,
October 1, 1903.